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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/751,040

12/31/2003

Jun Yong Min

060943-0053

1960

24341

7590

04/08/2005

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EXAMINER

FRIEDHOFFER, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2832

DATE MAILED: 04/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

28

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/751,040	Applicant(s) MIN, JUN YONG	
	Examiner Michael A. Friedhofer	Art Unit 2832	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the phrases "The present invention" and "In the present invention" should not be present. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claims 2-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 2, line 1 prior to "side" insert --at least one--.

In claim 2, line 3 it is unclear whether this "switch" is related to the switch previously claimed or is a separate and distinct switch.

In claim 2, line 4 it is unclear to which switch is referred.

In claim 3, "the width", "the pressing portion", "the side button", "the same", and "the front button" have no antecedent basis.

In claim 4, "the width", "the pressing portion", "the side button", "the same", "the pressing portion", and "the front button" have no antecedent basis.

In claim 5, "the number of side buttons", "the same", and "the number of front buttons" have no antecedent basis.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1, 3, and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Parada.

Parada discloses in figure 1 a remote control button assembly built in a steering wheel including at least more than three front buttons 22 on a front surface of a steering wheel, and at least one side button 18 provided in a lower portion of one lateral surface of an engaging region in which the front buttons are provided. The width of the pressing portion of the side button is the same as that of the pressing portion of the front button. The number of side buttons is the same as the number of front buttons. The buttons can be of any type.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Parada in view of Takai et al.

Parada teaches all of the claimed limitations with the exception of the specific structure of the side button.

Takai et al teaches in figures 1-3 that side buttons mounted on a steering wheel include contacting rod or pusher 24; switch 14 to be operated by the contacting

rod; and a connecting rod 20a pivotally coupled to a bracket including the spindle 22 and the circuit board 12 upon which the switch is mounted. The side button pivotally rotates and the contacting rod operates the switch while moving downwardly.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the teachings of Takai et al to Parada to utilize a side button structure, which includes a pivoting connecting rod for operating a contacting rod because this is for the purpose of placing all of the switches on a common circuit board thereby reducing the size of the steering wheel assembly and further centralizing the switches.

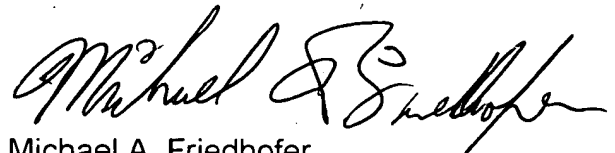
7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Leng et al, Liburdi, and Leng teach various centralized switch structures mounted to a steering wheel.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael A. Friedhofer whose telephone number is 571-272-1992. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 6:00 - 2:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on 571-272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2832

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Friedhofer", written in a cursive style.

Michael A. Friedhofer
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2832

maf